

Message Text

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S E C R E T ANKARA 1677

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR, CY

SUBJECT: TURKEY'S NEGOTIATING STANCE

REF: USUN 576

1. OUR READING OF TURKEY'S CURRENT NEGOTIATING STANCE ON
CYPRUS PROBLEM IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. TURKS REMAIN WILLING TO CONTINUE CYPRUS TALKS.

B. IF OTHER SIDE REFUSES TO NEGOTIATE, TURKS NO DOUBT WOULD
BE WILLING TO LIVE INDEFINITELY WITH STATUS QUOT THEY HAVE CREATED
IN CYPRUS. THEY SEE THEIR NEGOTIATING POSITION AS STRONG AND
GREEK CYPRIOTS' POSTION AS WEAK. PRINCIPAL PRESSURES IMPELLING
THEM TO SETTLEMENT PROBABLY ARE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY BURDEN
WHICH CYPRUS POSES FOR THEM, VARIED RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH UN-
SETTLED SITUATION, AND INTERNATIONAL OPINION. AT PRESENT, TURKS
APPARENTLY FIND THESE PRESSURES BEARABLE. THEY FEEL NO NEED TO
MAKE UNRECIPROCATED CONCESSIONS.

C. US MILITARY AID CUTOFF HAS BECOME PRESSURE AGAINST
CONCESSIONS, IN PART BECAUSE ANY CONCESSIONS WOULD BE SEEN IN
TURKEY AS KNUCKLING UNDER TO CONGRESS, AND IN PART ALSO BECAUSE
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TURKS FEAR THAT CONCESSIONS WOULD ENCOURAGE GREEK SIDECONTINUE

TRYING TO USE CONGRESSIONAL LEVERAGE ON TURKEY. RELATED
ELEMENT IS TURKISH BELIEF THAT PRO-GREEK LOBBYING IS TO
BLAME FOR CUTOFF.

D. FLEXIBILITY IN TURKISH POLICY IS EXTRAORDINARILY LIMITED
BY PRESENT POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH CARETAKER GOVERN-
MENT, LACKING POPULAR MANDATE OF ITS OWN, MUST CONSULT POLITICAL
PARTIES BEFORE EACH MAJOR STEP.

E. WHILE TURKISH POSITION ON BIREGIONAL FEDERAL STATE IS NOW
FROZEN, TURKS HAVE SO FAR AVOIDED LOCKING THEMSELVES INTO POSI-
TIONS ON OTHER MAJOR ISSUES, INCLUDING DIVISION AND DEMARCATION
OF TERRITORY, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, PROPERTY RIGHTS AND TROOP
WITHDRAWAL.

2. WE BELIEVE GREEK HOPE FOR TURKISH GESTURE TO FACILITATE
RESUMPTION OF CYPRUS TALKS (REFTEL) IS MOST UNLIKELY TO BE FUL-
FILLED. BY CONTRAST, A PROPOSAL FOR UNCONDITIONAL RESUMPTION
OF TALKS AIMING AT COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT ALMOST CERTAINLY
WOULD FIND POSITIVE RECEPTION.

WE BELIEVE THAT RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS ALONG LINES OF "GLOBAL"
APPROACH OFFER BEST CHANCE FOR PROGRESS. CYPRUS'S MANY
ISSUES FORM NETWORK OF QUID'S AND QUO'S WHICH BEST
NEGOTIATED ALL TOGETHER.
BERGUS

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